

MINUTES AND REPORT

O F

THE CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

held at 225 Swanston Street, Melbourne on Monday, 19th April 1982, commencing 7 p.m.

1. PRESENT

Mr. J. N. Black	Chairman
Mr. E. J. Long	
Mr. J. Mitchell	
Mr. M. Rundle	
Mr. G. J. Simm	
Mr. O. J. Slattery	

Mr. B. Greer	Employment Co-operative Development Adviser
Mr. W. W. Rawlinson	Executive Officer

Apologies for absence from the meeting received from

Mr. A. A. Dash
Mr. B. Macintosh

2. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held 15th March 1982, having been circulated, were received and adopted as a correct record of that meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.i. A.S.A. Discussion Group

The initial meeting of accountants of wholesale buyers and distributing groups is called for 29th April 1982. The Executive Officer will attend that meeting but has indicated the C.F.V. would not be able to devote time to assist in follow-up action but would be available as a resource centre.

3.ii. Newsletter

The April Newsletter, published with the assistance of Steve Manallack, has been received and is being distributed.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

4.i. To Premier, Ministers of Housing, Employment & Training, Agriculture

- offering assistance of services of the Federation in their new appointments.

4.ii. To Minister of Housing

- requesting opportunity for meeting with representatives of the Council.

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To former Minister, Employment & Training

- accepting conditions for approval by previous Government of grant of \$71,500 to cover E.C.D.P. expense budget 1982/83.

4.iv

To A.B.C. Melbourne - Radio Talks and Documentaries

- background material on Co-operatives, including Employment Co-operatives in Victoria.

4.v

From A.B.C. Sydney

- tape of "Monitor" programme on subject of Employment Co-operatives broadcast 5th April 1982.

4.vi

From Chairman, Co-operative Societies Advisory Council

- advising requests

(i) for increase of grant to \$5,000

(ii) for funding of video production programmes on Co-operatives

have been referred to the Minister with Advisory Council recommendations of support.

5.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Applications for membership of the Federation were received from

(i) Correct Line Graphics Co-operative Ltd.

(ii) Hodja Educational Resources Co-operative Ltd.

Both applications were submitted by the relevant subscription and copy of the Rules. As neither had completed 12 months operations audited accounts were not available.

Mr. Greer spoke concerning both Co-operatives and, following discussion, both were admitted into membership of the Federation with subscriptions deemed to be paid to 30th June 1983.

6.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

A statement of Income and Expenditure covering the period 1.7.81 to 31.3.82 together with an estimated Balance Sheet of the Federation's financial affairs, as at 31st March 1982, was submitted to the meeting. The statement dissected income and expenditure of the Community Employment Co-operative Development Programme and other Federation income and expenditure.

After due discussion the financial statement was received and adopted.

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7. CORPORATE PLAN

A report of the meeting held on Sunday, 4th April 1982, was tabled. The Committee agreed priority action was the need to develop educational programmes from scheduled regional meetings discussions.

The Council recorded its appreciation to Mr. Richard Crosbie, President, Victorian Credit Co-operative Association for his time in acting as Invigilator for the day's business. The appreciation of Council was also recorded to the Board and Management of Victorian Credit Co-operative Association for use of the Board Room for that day's meeting.

8. ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Executive Officer reported H.E. Governor of Victoria is unable to accept the invitation to open the Conference due to a previous commitment.

An invitation has been extended to the Minister of Housing, administering the Co-operation Act, to officially open the Conference.

An invitation has been extended to Senator Siddons to speak on Co-operation in Industry - Industrial Democracy.

9. REGIONAL MEETINGS

The closing date for replies to invitations to participate in the Gippsland regional meeting is the 19th April. To date 15 acceptances have been received of a required minimum of 30. Council directed that in the absence of Mr. Macintosh from the meeting discussions be held with him to assess the possibility of increasing the number of acceptances or deferral of the meeting by one month.

Western Districts Meeting

Individual invitations have been sent to Directors and Executives of all known Co-operatives in the Western Districts to attend the meeting in Camperdown on Thursday, 13th May.

Bendigo

It is suggested the Bendigo meeting be held on 22nd June, subject to agreement of the proposed date with representatives of local Co-operatives.

The Council considered a draft circular on the subject of Education to be used at 1982 regional meetings.

It was agreed the paper, as presented, was acceptable and should be used as a discussion paper to obtain indications of priorities of subjects for inclusion in an education programme. In addition the papers would be taken by the participants for further study and report to the Federation.

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For subsequent regional meetings it is suggested the Education circular be issued with the invitation to enable pre-meeting study to take place.

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LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Rundle reported the Committee met on 15th April 1982 to consider comments by the Registrar on the first Draft Rules of the proposed Federation to be incorporated under the Co-operation Act 1981.

The Legislation Committee recommend to Council

- (i) that Draft Rule 7(6) be deleted and pressure brought to bear on the Registrar for amending legislation to be introduced to enable foreign associations or societies to be eligible for membership of the Co-operative Federation of Victoria Limited.
- (ii) The Legislation Committee recommended deletion of reference to specific amounts of annual subscriptions in Draft Rule 20.
- (iii) The Committee recommended that the days of notice required to be given for convening general meetings be as drafted rather than as recommended by the Registrar to follow the Model Rules.
- (iv) The Committee recommended that Draft Rule 44 referring to number, composition and rotation of Directors remain as drafted as it is considered this proposal is more democratic for the operations of a secondary level co-operative such as the Co-operative Federation of Victoria.

Apart from the above four points, the corrections suggested by the Registrar were accepted and a new Draft Rules prepared.

Council accepted the recommendations of the Legislation Committee and endorsed the new Draft Rules for submission to the Registrar for further consideration. The draft to be supported by a strong case for retention of the Rule 34 and 44 as drafted.

The Council directed the draft be the subject of discussion with the Registrar.

The Legislation Committee reported that the Co-operation Act 1981 was proclaimed and became law on 30th March 1982.

11.

REPORTS

11.i

Community Employment Co-operative Development Programme

Mr. Rawlinson reported that one condition of approval of the 1982/83 expense budget by the previous Minister required the submission of a paper from the Federation on the relationship between the established traditional Co-operatives and Co-operatives funded under the E.C.D.P.

Council directed that information on the Employment Co-operatives and services being provided by them be disseminated as widely as possible in future Newsletters and meetings of Federation members.

Mr. Greer reported that applications had been invited for Education and Training Officers for the programme to be employed by the Vocational Orientation Centre. The selection and direction of such Training Officers for the programme will be under the control of the Co-operative Development Adviser, Ministry officials and the Director of the V.O.C. The use of these officers will be restricted to the 19 Co-operatives funded under the programme.

Mr. Greer listed the 19 Co-operatives for which funds have been provided from the current year's programme.

Mr. Greer reported informal meetings being held by representatives of the programme with various parliamentarians in the new Government.

A meeting is to be organised with the newly appointed Minister for Employment and Training of representatives of the Federation to include representatives from Employment Co-operatives.

Note was taken of articles published in "The Age" of 12th April and 19th April relating to operations of the Co-operative Development Programme and containing reference to the Co-operative Federation's role in that programme.

Responding to Council's questions on the situation concerning new Co-operatives being formed following the allocation of funds provided under the current year's programme, Mr. Greer indicated the services of the Federation are available to such enquiring Co-operatives and, where relevant, reference could be made direct to the Ministry of Employment and Training. There is, of course, continued scope for development of small Co-operatives independent of the Employment Co-operative Development Programme.

11.ii

Co-operative Federation of Australia

Mr. Slattery reported a meeting of the Steering Committee was held in Melbourne on 19th March 1982.

On the subject of studies relating to the formation of a Co-operative Bank, Mr. Slattery advised that Stage 2 of the studies has now been completed and the consultant's report is awaited. Indications are that practical implementation of the recommendations will be difficult but are worthy of further detailed study.

On the subject of re-structuring of the Co-operative Federation of Australia, Mr. Slattery advised having reported to the Steering Committee the reservations expressed by the Council at its March 1982 meeting to the proposals issued by the C.F.A. for consideration at that meeting.

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Consideration had been given to the possible legal problems associated with the limited liability status of membership of a corporate structure requiring share capital membership in addition to varying annual subscriptions. A possible solution to this possible objection was submitted in diagram form for consideration of Council. In the absence of expert legal advice Council expressed further reservations on the complexity suggested in the diagrammatic re-structured Co-operation Federation of Australia.

After detailed discussion Council agreed

that the Co-operative Federation of Victoria supports in general the proposals for the establishment of a Co-operative Council of Australia as circulated by the Steering Committee and considered by the March 1982 meeting of the Victorian Council subject to:

- (i) the existing Co-operative Federation of Victoria being the State Division of the Co-operative Council of Australia;
- (ii) refinement of the dual member relationship of a Co-operative to a State Division and the National body.
- (iii) the charter of the Co-operative Council of Australia respecting the individuality of all types and sizes of Co-operatives in its membership;
- (iv) the overall national structure being as simple as possible.

The Chairman reported having received advice from the President of the Co-operative Federation of Australia, I. H. Hunter, that he will be retiring from the Council of the Co-operative Federation of Australia, effective from 30th June 1982.

11.iii

Co-operative Societies Advisory Council

Mr. Long reported that following the proclamation of the Co-operation Act 1981 a new Advisory Council is required to be established. The composition of this Council has not yet been finalised and no meeting of the Advisory Council has been held since the last meeting of the Federation's Council.

Council directed that a meeting be sought with the Registrar for discussions on

- (i) the proposed Rules for the proposed Co-operative Federation of Victoria Limited;
- (ii) action taken by the Minister on recommendations of the Advisory Council concerning funding and

contributions to production of video;

- (iii) amendments to the Co-operation Act 1981 concerning foreign societies and employees of Worker Co-operatives eligibility for holding of director positions.

11.iv

Executive Officer

Mr. Rawlinson reported having held discussions with the Federation's legal adviser and North Eastern Co-operative on the situation concerning requests for amendment of Rules of a Co-operative to increase the minimum shareholdings and the current response of the Registrar to such requests.

Mr. Rawlinson also reported having participated in a meeting convened by the Swinburne Institute of Technology on the subject of Industrial Democracy at which Senator Siddons discussed the Industrial Democracy Bill currently in front of the Federal Parliament.

12.

NEXT MEETING

Council set Monday, 17th May 1982 as a date for its next meeting at 225 Swanston Street, Melbourne.

13.

CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.05 p.m.

John H. H. H.
17.5.82

held at 225 Swa

1. PRESENT:

2. MINUTES:

3. MATTERS

4. CORRESP

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